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PRELIMINARY MEDICAL EDUCATION¹

AMONG medical men interested in the advance of their profession few questions are attracting more attention at the present time than is that of the character of their professional education, and going a step farther, it might be said that opinion is now pretty well settled on this point that the important part of the medical education is the beginning of it, or perhaps better, the preparation for it.

Questions of the relations of medical education to medical practise have been discussed by college faculties, medical societies, state boards of examiners and other bodies, and out of all their discussions some tangible results are beginning to follow, as shown by the rapidly increasing requirements for entrance to or graduation from medical schools, which are now insisted upon by those in authority. Recently, through its Council on Medical Education, the American Medical Association has begun to take a very active part in the discussion, and will undoubtedly exert a great influence in shaping opinion. The association has had for years a committee on education, but as the membership changed from year to year, little of real value was accomplished. In 1904, however, a permanent body known as the Council on Medical Education was created, the functions of which are to determine the actual condition of this branch of profes-

¹ Based on a Report to the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association, presented April 29, 1907.